

Report on contact with the Sentinelese on 2.12.85.

Sentinelese contact party left Port Blair by MV 'Tarmugli' on 1.12.85 at 10.30 p.m. Reached North Sentinel Island on 2.12.85 at 5.10 a.m. From the ship we sighted a camp fire and eight Sentinelese on the shore at 5.30 a.m. Went to shore by life boat at 6.00 a.m. At that time no Sentinelese was seen on the shore. The hut seen during our last visit (5.11.85) was seen extended with new thatched leaves. We saw twelve Sentinelese appearing from the bushes on the shore. Seeing them we placed on shore five bags coconuts, one bag sweet potato and two bags containing dahs and adzes. Sentinelese started running towards the gifts with their number increasing and final bulging to twentyfour. These twentyfour comprised five female, four children, and one infant on the back of the mother and seven males. However remaining seven could not be identified clearly as males or females. One of them was seen pointing towards east. We proceeded to the direction and placed three bags coconuts on the shore. We saw two bows and arrows placed on the shore. We did not touch the weapons as that could annoy the Sentinelese. Shortly afterwards Sentinelese came and ~~collected the gifts~~ collected the gifts. We remained about 250 Mtrs away from shore watching their reaction. One of them picked up the bows and placed on shoulders and moved inside the jungle. We again made a trip towards west where we had earlier placed gifts. Here one of the Sentinelese raised his hand holding the bow without arrow. Others were waving hands. In return we waved hands. When we were returning to ship we saw two Sentinelese bringing their dingi from the sands to the sea. However they did not come towards us and after covering a few yards they went back. We sailed back at 8.15 a.m. Reached Port Blair 2.00 p.m.

Party comprised Shri R.S. Krishna, Director of Tribal Welfare, Dr. J.K. Sarkar Of Anthropology, Dr. Rohinder Lall, Medical Officer, VRU Menon, Assistant Commissioner (TW), Shri Krishna Rao, Dy.S.P. (BF) and Shri Bakhtawar Singh, Retd. Dy.S.P.

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